

(August 5, 2013)

Maturity Testing for Concrete Pavement

The pavement shall not be opened to traffic until the maturity-strength relationship demonstrates the pavement has a minimum compressive strength of 2,500 psi and approval of the Project Engineer. The pavement shall be cleaned prior to opening to traffic.

The Contractor shall establish a Maturity Value on the approved concrete mix through the use of a testing program following the WSDOT test procedure for estimating concrete strength.

The Contractor shall establish the strength maturity relationship at least 14 calendar days prior to the production pours. The Contractor shall notify the Project Engineer 7 days prior to performing the Strength Maturity Relationship as to the time, date and location where the Strength Maturity Relationship will be performed. The Contractor shall allow WSDOT the opportunity to place maturity loggers in the test cylinders in order to calibrate the WSDOT maturity meter. Referenced Strength Maturity Relationships from previous mix designs shall not be allowed. A Strength Maturity Relationship shall be developed for each mix used on the project.

The Contractor shall be responsible for the installation of the maturity logger/sensors within the concrete pavement pour area. For panel replacements performed under Section 5-01, place a minimum of four loggers/sensors at two different locations. Two in one of the first few panel replacements and two in the last panel replacement of the day, each day. For continuous concrete paving operations performed under Section 5-05, place a minimum of four loggers/sensors, two at the beginning and two at the end of the concrete pour, each day. The Contractor shall maintain the integrity of the logger/sensors and wires during concrete pouring, finishing and curing operations or until the maturity information is no longer needed.

The Contractor shall perform the Quality Control Procedure to Verify the Strength-Maturity Relationship on days 1 and 2 of concrete placement as indicated in the test procedure.

The Contractor shall develop a Quality Control Plan based on the Strength-Maturity Relationship to monitor and provide remedial action to ensure the concrete meets design strengths.

Any alteration in mix proportions or source or type of any material, in excess of those tolerable by batching variability shall require the development of a new strength-maturity relationship prior to its use at the Contractors time and expense. Alterations include a change in type, source, or proportion of cement, fly ash, coarse aggregate, fine aggregate, or admixtures. A change in water-to-cementitious material ratio greater than 5.0 percent requires the development of a new strength-maturity relationship.

Maturity Method Test Procedure

This test method provides a procedure for estimating concrete strength by means of the maturity method. The maturity method is based on strength gain as a function of temperature and time. This method is a modification of ASTM C1074-98

covering the procedures for estimating concrete strength by means of the maturity method.

The maturity method consists of three steps:

- Develop strength-maturity relationship
- Estimate in-place strength
- Verify strength-maturity relationship.

The Nurse-Saul “temperature-time factor (TTF)” maturity index shall be used in this test method, with a datum temperature of 0 °C (32 °F).

Apparatus

- If the maturity meter has input capability for datum temperature, verify that the proper value of the datum temperature has been selected prior to each use.
- Intellirock maturity system (or approved equivalent). This system shall include the logger/sensor, handheld reader, and software.
- The data obtained from the maturity meter shall be unalterable and un-interruptible.
- The same brand and type of maturity meters shall be used in the field as those used to develop and verify the strength-maturity relationship.
- Logger/sensor wire grade shall be larger than or equal to 20 awg.

Contractors Procedure to Develop Strength-Maturity Relationship

Step	Action
1	For every concrete design that will be evaluated by the maturity method, prepare a minimum of 21 cylinders in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 23. Additional cylinders should be cast to avoid having to repeat the procedure. The mixture proportions and constituents of the concrete shall be the same as those of the job concrete whose strength will be estimated using this practice. The minimum size of each batch shall be approximately 3 m ³ (4 yd ³).
2	Fresh concrete testing for each batch shall include concrete placement temperature, slump, and air content in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 309, FOP for AASHTO T 119, and FOP for AASHTO T 152.
3	Embed loggers/sensors in at least two cylinders. Loggers/sensors shall be placed 2-4 inches from any surface. Activate the loggers/sensors.
4	Cure the cylinders in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 23.
5	<p>Perform compression strength tests in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 22 to target 2,500 psi for opening to traffic. In targeting the opening to traffic requirement and to properly characterize and validate the maturity calibration curve at least three of target cylinder breaks must be broken prior to 2,500 psi. Test three cylinders at each age and compute the average strength. The cylinders with loggers/sensors may be tested if additional cylinders are needed.</p> <p>If a cylinder is obviously defective (for example, out of round, not square, damaged due to handling), the cylinder shall be discarded. If an individual cylinder strength is greater than 10 percent outside the average of three cylinders, the cylinder can be considered defective and</p>

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	be discarded. When two of the three cylinders are defective, a new batch must be evaluated unless additional acceptable cylinders are available.
6	At each test age, record the individual and average values of maturity and strength for each batch on a permanent data sheet
7	<p>Plot the average strengths as a function of the average maturity values, with data points shown. Using a computer spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel, calculate a point-to-point interpolation through the data. The resulting curve is the strength-maturity relationship to be used for estimating the strength of the concrete mixture placed in the field.</p> <p>When developing the strength-maturity relationship, the spreadsheet software allows the Contractor to develop the corresponding maturity equation, which defines the strength-maturity relationship. The Engineer should carefully examine the data for “outliers”, faulty cylinder breaks, or faulty maturity readings. The Engineer should use judgment to determine if certain points should be discarded, or retested, or whether the entire strength-maturity relationship should be regenerated.</p>

Contractors Procedure to Estimate In-Place Strength

Step	Action
1	Prior to or at the time of concrete placement, install loggers/sensors at the frequency specified. Loggers/sensors shall be placed a minimum of 2 ft. from a panel edge 4 to 5 inches from the panel surface. Loggers/sensors may be tied to reinforcing steel, but should not be in direct contact with the reinforcing steel or formwork.
2	As soon as practical after concrete placement, connect and activate the maturity meter(s).
3	The Contractor shall provide to the Engineer, prior to the opening the pavement to traffic, encrypted data files (with software to read the files) of the maturity data from the loggers/sensors. Data shall be provided until the maturity is at a value that is equal to or greater than the required strength for that concrete mixture, as determined by the strength-maturity relationship. Additionally, data shall be provided on a record log.

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Contractors Quality Control Procedure to Verify Strength-Maturity Relationship

Step	Action
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1	At the specified verification interval make a three cylinders in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 23.
2	Embed a logger/sensor in one cylinder. Loggers/sensors shall be placed 2-4 inches from any surface. Activate the logger/sensor as soon as possible.
3	Cure the cylinders in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 23.
4	Perform compression strength tests on all three of the cylinders in accordance with FOP for AASHTO T 22 to verify strength and time to reach 2,500 psi for opening to traffic. Compute the average strength of the cylinders. If a cylinder is obviously defective (for example, out of round, not square, damaged due to handling), the cylinder shall be discarded. If any individual cylinder strength is greater than 10 percent outside the average of three cylinders, that cylinder will be considered defective and be discarded. When two of the three cylinders are defective, the verification procedure will have to be repeated starting at step 1.
5	Record on a permanent data sheet the maturity value at the time of compression testing and individual and average strengths established from the cylinder breaks. Also record the predicted strength based on the strength-maturity relationship established for that particular concrete design, and the percent difference between average and predicted values. The strength maturity relationship is verified when the predicted strength established from the average strength maturity relationship and the cylinder breaks are within 10 percent. A copy of the data sheet and an encrypted file for the maturity data shall be provided to the Engineer on a daily basis.